

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /091 W

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R 101210Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5140

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SU, LY, UR

SUBJECT: SADAT BLAMES TRIPOLI AND MOSCOW FOR ABORTIVE COUP IN SUDAN

1. INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT DOMINATES FRONT-PAGE CAIRO
DAILY AKHBAR JULY 10. SADAT'S REMARKS CENTER ON SPECIFIC CHARGE
THAT SOVIETS WERE BEHIND QADHAFI'S AMATEURISH EFFORTS OVERTURN
NUMAYRI REGIME AND THAT SOVIET PLAN FOR SUDAN IS LINKED WITH LEBANESE
CONFLICT. "THE AIM IS TO STRIKE ARAB SOLIDARITY..."

2. SOVIET CULPABILITY. QADHAFI IS MERELY "TOOL OF A GREAT POWER."
EVEN IN 1971, SOVIETS UNSUCCESSFULLY SOUGHT GOE APPROVAL
OF COMMUNIST COUP IN SUDAN. AT THAT TIME SADAT TOLD
SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND POLITBURO PONAMAREV THAT NO MARXIST
REGIME CAN SURVIVE "IN OUR AREA," BUT PONAMAREV, A DOGMATIC TYPE,
DID NOT LISTEN. "I HEAR HE WAS RECENTLY IN SYRIA AND LEADS
DELEGATIONS WHICH VISIT ME." "WITHOUT WISHING ANGER USSR, I
REPEAT THAT SOVIETS DEPEND IN THEIR ANALYSIS OF ME SITUATION
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ON VENDORS OF SWEET POTATOES FROM WHOM THE RECEIVE UNRIPE INFORMATION"

3. QADHAFI IS INCONSISTENT. IN 1971, QADHAFI HELPED FOIL COMMUNIST COUP IN SUDAN BUT HAS NOW SHIFTED HIS STAND COMPLETELY. HE FINANCED LAST WEEK'S EVENTS AND ALLIED WITH COMMUNISTS, MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, AND ALL ENEMIES OF THE NATIONALIST REGIME. HE USED TO SAY USSR IS ATHEIST, BUT TODAY HE SAYS IT IS MAINSTAY OF ARAB NATION. SOME MONTHS AGO WHEN NUMAYRI SOUGHT MEDIATE BETWEEN CAIRO AND TRIPOLI, SADAT GAVE HIM PROOF THAT QADHAFI WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY ARRANGING COUP AGAINST NUMAYRI IN COORDINATION WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI. RECENTLY QADHAFI PRETENDED HE WANTED IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CAIRO AND ASKED ARAFAT TO PASS MESSAGE. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, QADHAFI'S AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO WAS ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING ANTI-GOE PROPAGANDA.

4. CARLOS IN LIBYA. "I WANT QADHAFI TO HEAR THIS." CARLOS WENT TO PDRY AND NOW SHUTTLES BETWEEN THERE AND LIBYA. "SO FAR NOTHING HAS HAPPENED IN PDRY," BUT WE ARE WATCHING CLOSELY.

5. NO EGYPTIAN SOLDIER WENT TO SUDAN. EGYPTIAN PLANES AIR LIFTED SUDANESE FORCES BACK TO KHARTOUM, BUT NOT SINGLE EGYPTIAN SOLDIER ENTERED BATTLE.

6. MAY 25 COUP SCARE. SADAT ANNOUNCED HE HAD WARNED NUMAYRI SIX WEEKS AGO THAT COUP EFFORT WOULD OCCUR MAY 25. EVEN EGYPT, HOWEVER, NEVER IMAGINED THAT PLOT INVOLVED "TOTAL INVASION" INVOLVING ONE YEAR'S PLANNING AND HUNDREDS OF MERCENARIES CARRYING MOST MODERN MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

7. COMMENT: SADAT'S CASTIGATION OF QADHAFI IS IN LINE WITH REPORTING AND EDITORIALS DURING PAST WEEK. ONLY NEW ELEMENT IS HIS SURFACING OF GOE'S WARNING TO NUMAYRI OF POSSIBLE COUP LAST MAY 25. SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN INTERVIEW IS SIGNAL TO SOVIETS THAT MEDDLING IN ARAB DOMESTIC AFFAIRS HAS BEEN NOTICED IN CAIRO. WE HAVE BEEN HEARING OVER PAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS FROM VARIOUS DIPLOMATIC AND EGYPTIAN SOURCES THAT GOE HAS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT INDIRECT AND PERHAPS DIRECT SOVIET ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL COMMUNISTS, WHOSE INTENTIONS ARE NOW FIXED ON GETTING THEMSELVES ELECTED TO PEOPLES ASSEMBLY NEXT OCTOBER. WE READ SADAT INTERVIEW LESS AS WARNING TO QADHAFI THAN AS WARNING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SOVIETS TO KEEP THEIR FINGERS OUT OF EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.
EILTS

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